Emergency Management Response System (EMRS) Fact Sheet

The EMRS is a web-based task management system designed to automate many of the tasks routinely associated with the disease outbreaks and animal emergencies. It is used for routine reporting of foreign animal disease (FAD) investigations, state specific disease outbreaks or control programs, classic national animal health emergency responses, or natural disasters involving animals. The EMRS was developed by Veterinary Services (VS), Animal and Plant Health inspection Service (APHIS), U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) personnel.

Only personnel in a specific state or with a definite "need-to-know" are given access to a specific EMRS data base. In an Animal Health Emergency Response, typically, only data entry personnel, section leaders, epidemiologists, and GIS personnel need access to the EMRS. In routine Foreign Animal Disease Investigations, the field FAD Diagnosticians and the Area Veterinarian in Charge or Area Epidemiologist will be entering the data from the Investigation. This can be USDA, APHIS, VS employees, state animal health officials, or temporary hires. Information is managed in the EMRS using views for task force management personnel or it can be exported for use with other applications.

EMRS modules include detailed investigation tracking, general task tracking, and administrative functions. They are linked together with lookup and help modules. The investigation data is also available through a mapping interface, allowing the user to create on-the-fly, dynamic maps of real-time outbreak area and premises data. The mapping interface also enables veterinarians, epidemiologists and outbreak personnel to more quickly respond to patterns during the outbreak and deliver high-resolution, high-quality maps to decision makers, government institutions and the public.

Links for more information and to log into the EMRS are as follows:

Public APHIS web page - http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ep/emrs.html
Inside APHIS web page - http://inside.aphis.usda.gov/ep/emrs.html

There is an EMRS training module on the web and there should also be a separate EMRS training session available during an outbreak for appropriate personnel.